

Thousands of immortal souls are laboring together with God, whose meat and drink is to do his will, and to assist in raising the walls of this edifice. And thousands of thousands are anxiously praying and believing for that grand consummation, when the top stone shall be brought on with shouting, "Grace, grace, unto it."

Now, my dear friends, our spiritual David, even David's Lord, appeals to us this year, A. D., 1901. He addresses us from the excellent glory, and says, "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord." God appeals to us on the grounds of divine claims. "My son, give me thine heart." God claims our affections. He claims the obedience of life that we fear always before him: that we keep his commandments to do them; walk in his statutes; make his law our rule of life; endeavor always to please him. Enoch had this testimony that he pleased God. There is only one way of acceptance, by surrendering ourselves to God thru faith in the Lord Jesus. Christ is our altar, as well as sacrifice; on this we must place ourselves, trusting only in the blessed Christ for pardon, justification and eternal life. Having surrendered ourselves, he requests the consecration of our talents, our influence, our time, our property. The gold of Sheba must be given to Christ. Let us for a moment consider the grounds of the divine claim, the relationship in which God stands to us. These claims are the claims of Deity, the Supreme ruler of heaven and earth. Myriads of angels adore him. This Deity is our Father in heaven; the author of our being; in him we live and move. He gave us our bodies, all their members—fashioned them in secret. He endowed our souls with all their faculties. He stamped upon us the impress of immortality. These are the obligations arising from his boundless goodness to us. I referred to him as the author of our being. Now trace his connection with you from the dawn of your existence to this hour. Surely goodness and mercy have followed us. It is a general appeal, no exception. Who then? O, yes, who then will consecrate his or her life's service this day unto the Lord. I ask you who are young, will you?

There is certainly a peculiar blessedness about early piety. Yes I know it from experience. I gave my heart to Jesus September 13, 1843, and I know there is a reality in the religion of Jesus Christ, not only in youth but also in old age. I am now over 76 years of age, and I have preached the gospel of Jesus Christ for over 48 years, have led hundreds of precious souls to Christ during my ministry. Brother M. Shively at our California camp meeting said I am not worn out yet. "Who then is willing to consecrate his service today to the Lord?" Anybody can serve the great one cause of missions whose heart is touched with the love of Christ. All who cannot preach personally in lands afar can preach representatively. Everybody, from the least to the greatest can find a quick way to mission fields by way

of the throne of God. The path of prayer is most direct of all. I ask you, who are middle-aged, you parents and mothers. It will bless your households—expel the plague and keep the power of satan from you. I ask the old, the gray-headed. I know you cannot do much, but your souls may be saved. It is not too late to avoid eternal death. Now, I ask you, each and all, "Who then is willing, etc." This appeal is for your present decision. "This day." The past is irreparable, the future is uncertain. God wants you, therefore glorify him in your soul and body which are his. "Ye are not your own." "Today if ye will hear his voice." This year of our Lord invites you to begin a new course. "Now then who is willing." Do you ask how it is to be done? Notice, you must do it with serious deliberation. Of all engagements it is the most momentous. Do it with earnest determination. Holy revelation is indispensable. Amen. Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation.

Rosena, Calif.

MY OBSERVATIONS—Continued

W. J. H. BAUMAN

- That all observers are not alike quiet.
- That heart religion is the best of all because it can not be hidden. For "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." In a sense actions are words.
- That infidels don't know what they believe.
- That *consecrated* Christians are the most happy people on earth.
- That men do not *always* sow what they reap. Sometimes "an enemy" does after-sowing. See Matt. 13:28.
- That optimists and pessimists both play their part in harmonizing and balancing things.
- That some old things have more merit than some new things. Also that some new things are better than some old things.
- That divine healing is of God, but that some "divine healers" are a consummate fraud.
- That proper temper is essential in all things.
- That popular theologians are not always pious.
- That followers of Judas Iscariot have entered the twentieth century arena.
- That some twentieth century sermons have too much Fourth of July oration smack about them.
- That some people are too noisy while others are too quiet.
- That all rich men are not bad and that all poor men are not saints.
- That twentieth century problems will border on immensity along certain lines. But that sin is, and in all probability will continue to be still rampant as in "ye olden times."
- That no one person has a monopoly on all of life's efficiencies.
- That a plant to grow big must begin while small.
- That there is greater joy in having God, for Christ's sake forgive us, than there is in all the self merit we can think of.

That kind words and deeds have better effect for good than harsh ones.

That all the good in life's accomplishments is not attributable to the great, strong, swift and eloquent only. But "out of the mouth of babes and sucklings has God ordained strength."

Morrill, Kansas.

ISOLATED BRETHREN

J. L. GILLIN

In the issue of Jan. 31, our Editor, I suppose, answered the last question in the Information Bureau column in a way which to my mind is hardly satisfactory. A member of the Brethren church who is obliged to be absent from a congregation of the Brethren *ought not* to join a church where he cannot obey Christ. Of course, if he does not believe the distinctive doctrines for which the Brethren church stands, he might as well join some other church when he goes some place where there is no Brethren church. And I will add, that he might as well join some other church even when he lives where a Brethren church exists. "For whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

I lived for five years away from the Brethren church while at school and was often asked to join the other churches there but I did not for the reason that I could not conscientiously join a church and profess to believe its teachings when it left out as non essential some of the great doctrines of Christ.

That doctrine that says "No matter what you believe so long as you are sincere," is a false doctrine. It is false in logic and in tendency.

Its logic is: "There are Christians in all churches; such a one is a member of a church; therefore, such a one is a Christian."

And it continues: "If such a one can be a Christian and not believe these distinctive doctrines, so can I." It is false, because any one is not a Christian because he is a member of such a church but because he is honest with God and his own conscience. You may not have been trained as he was. You may know better. Hence, you are responsible where some others are not.

I for one cannot see how anyone who is firmly convinced of the truth of certain doctrines in the New Testament can join a church which neither teaches nor practices them. So, isolated members, my advice to you is, "Be true to your convictions. Let your light shine. Talk your beliefs. Work with the other churches as far as you can. Scatter tracts. And you will be able to leaven the church and often able to gather about you a band of those whose hearts God has opened thru you to see the greater truth."

Here at Waterloo we have undertaken a plan whereby each of our isolated members receives a letter from the pastor every two or three months. We have found it helpful both to them and us to maintain this intercourse. It tends to keep them faithful.